



**GOOD ROADS**

Victory at the Polls.

An election to pass on the proposition to organize a special road district six miles square, with Versailles, Mo., as the center, was held there in May. The proposition carried by a large majority.

**Bound to Have Them.**

The supervisors of Haycock Township, Bucks County, Pa., have fixed the wagon road-tax at \$1 on \$100 of assessed real estate valuation. Pennsylvania is determined to have good roads, regardless of cost.

**What Iowa People Think.**

The business men of Davenport and Scott County, Iowa, held a largely attended meeting to promote the interest in good roads. The conclusions arrived at were that all road taxes should be paid in cash; that the office of road supervisor should be abolished; that the use of wide tires on vehicles should be encouraged by rebates on taxes, and that when the road has reached a proper state of development free delivery of mails in the rural districts should be one of the rewards.

**Good Roads and the Mail.**

If country roads were generally improved by the modern plan of road-building, there would not be much delay in providing free delivery through the more populous parts of the country. One reason why England delivers mail from house to house in the country as well as in the city is because the country roads are in so fine condition that the work of delivery is greatly expedited. If there were English roads all through the Middle and Eastern States it would not be a great undertaking for this Government to establish free delivery in those sections.—Syracuse (N. Y.) Post.

**Crude Oil in Road Work.**

For many years it has been known that the use of oil on troubled waters greatly calms them. Recently some railway companies have experimented with it for the purpose of laying dust, which it is claimed that it will do for a very long time, and now its value in improving country roads is forcibly asserted by J. G. Winger, of Grand Valley, Pa. This gentleman says that he has devoted his whole life, since the discovery of oil, to its development, and has made a study of the great blessing that it gives to man, and believes that the time is not far in the future when dusty and muddy roads will be conditions unknown, and that crude oil will bring this reform about. The experience on which he principally bases his opinion he described in a letter to the Oil City Derrick:

"In the winter of 1894, near Grand Valley, a small plug was forced out of an oil line, and a quantity of oil spurted on the road. The snow was thoroughly saturated with oil for about one rod in diameter. The oil was spread over the road by the feet of horses and the action of sleigh runners for the distance of about four rods. The roads in this valley are clay bottom and very dusty in dry weather, and muddy in wet, and it's no unusual thing to see ten to twenty inches in the season.

"This bit of road, and the crude oil referred to, have attracted my attention ever since; for, when the dry weather returned and 'dusty roads' were the halting salutation of every one you met these particular four rods of road were as free from dust as a well-kept, brick-paved street, and after a shower, when the dusty roads were converted into beds of mud, this section of the road was as dry as if no rain had fallen. The writer has explained the phenomenon to many observers who were ignorant of the cause. At present, and after the action of three summers and winters, there is still to be seen the unmistakable evidence of the preserving qualities of the crude oil. Now, accepting the foregoing observations as truth, is it not safe to conclude that a solution of the greatest public question has a nucleus on which to rest a hope?

"Oil and earth have an affinity for each other, and, when united in proper proportions on a roadbed, are for a long time inseparable. The oil on the roadbed prevents the earth from rising in dust, and excludes water, and hence the impossibility of mud. It looks reasonable that an oil-treated road, properly shaped, will remain mudless; when snow falls, even in small quantities, it will give good sleighing, and when the snow goes in the spring it will be ready for comfort, pleasure and business.

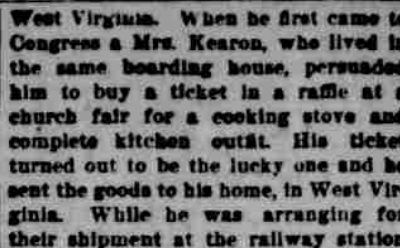
"In the employment of crude oil for good roads no change need be made in the mode of construction now in general use. The roadbed should be properly shaped with machinery, and immediately after working and forming, and while the earth is loose and best adapted for the absorption of oil, the oil should be applied, after the manner of sprinkling streets. The quantity of oil in the red of road can only be determined by experiments and actual tests. The writer's opinion, based on observation, is that one barrel of oil to each three rods of road will suffice. This, if the writer has not erred in his figures, will be all to the depth of one-third of an inch. Current price of oil, and cost of spraying, will determine expense of treating a mile of road. Should not all roads be good roads, and a demand for them made?—L. A. W. Roberts.

**Use the Bicycle in Warfare.**

A new use for the bicycle in warfare was developed during the recent bombardment of San Juan. An account of the bombardment from within the city says that a volunteer corps of bicyclists greatly aided the Spanish commander by acting as messengers between the forts.—New York Herald.

A young widow's health usually improves when her physician gets married.

Marriage cures nervousness, don't you see?—Havana tobacco in them.



### HOUSEHOLD DEPARTMENT

**Breakfast Bacon.**

The pan was sizzling hot, the bacon of wafer thinness and properly marked with a streak of fat and streak of lean, and was not allowed to touch the pan until the members of the family were heard on their way to breakfast. Notwithstanding all this, on a sultry morning when nothing else in the way of meat could be tolerated but a few slices of crisp bacon, here it was straight and pallid instead of brown and curly. This was the first hot-weather breakfast essayed by the new cook, and she evidently was not in possession of the family secret which insured properly cooked bacon at all seasons. The next morning it was even warmer, but this time the bacon was perfect, for before it was consigned to the hot pan each slice had been spread on a flat tin pan and this put directly on the ice for about fifteen minutes; thus it was firm when raw, which means to an experienced eye crispness when cooked. The bare ice must not come in contact with the bacon, as the least suspicion of dampness would produce the very result the cookiness prevents.

### COLORS OF NATIONAL FLAGS.

**Red Holds Its Place as the Most Popular Tint.**

Though the policy of military authorities in using less glaring colors in uniforms has been very marked of late years, red remains the most popular color for national standards. Of twenty-five countries, nineteen have flags with red in them, the list including the United States, England, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Turkey, Mexico, Chile, Portugal, Venezuela, and last, but not least, Cuba.

The countries which have blue as an element of their flags are the United States, Russia, France, England, Holland, Ecuador, Sweden, Chile, Venezuela, Portugal and Cuba. Three countries have black as one of the elements of their flags—Germany, Belgium and China, but Germany is the only one of the three which has black and white together. There are five countries (excluding from consideration Ireland, the familiar flag of which is not officially recognized among the national standards) which have green as a color; Brazil, the flag of which is green chiefly; Mexico, Egypt, Italy and Persia. There are nine countries in which the flag is partly of yellow. These countries are Austria, Spain, Belgium, Egypt, Sweden, China, Persia, Brazil and Venezuela. Countries with flags partly white are the United States, France, Germany, Russia, Austria and Italy, six of the seven chief powers. There is no white in the national standard of England, but the British naval flag has a white background. Other countries having white in their flags are Switzerland, Turkey, Persia, Japan, Mexico, Holland, Denmark, Portugal, Cuba, Chile and Ecuador, the flag of which is nearer white than any other country, being made up of two parallel white columns, between which is a column of blue, upon which are white stars.—New York Sun.

### A Memory.

How dear to this heart are the old-fashioned dresses, When fond recollection presents them to view! In fancy I see the old wardrobes and presses, Which held the loved gowns that in girlhood I knew. The wide spreading mohair, the silk that hung by it; The straw-colored satin with trimmings of brown; The ruffled foulard, the pink organdie high it; But, oh, for the pocket that hung in each gown! The old-fashioned pocket, the obsolete pocket, The praiseworthy pocket that hung in each gown.

That dear, roomy pocket I'd hail as a treasure, Could I but behold it in gowns of to-day; I'd find it the source of an exquisite pleasure.

But all my modistes sternly answer me "Nay!"

"'T would be so convenient when going out shopping."

"'T would hold my small purchases coming from town;

And always my purse or my kerchief I'm dropping."

Oh, me, for the pocket that hung in my gown,

The old-fashioned pocket, the obsolete pocket,

The praiseworthy pocket that hung in my gown.

A gown with a pocket! How fondly I'd guard it!

Each day ere I'd don it I'd brush it with care;

Not a full Paris costume could make me discard it.

Though trimmed with the latest an empress might wear.

But I have no hope, for the fashion is banished;

The tear of regret will my fond visions drown;

As fancy reverts to the days that have vanished,

I sigh for the pocket that hung in my gown,

The old-fashioned pocket, the obsolete pocket,

The praiseworthy pocket that hung in my gown.

—Life.



### HOUSEHOLD DEPARTMENT

**Danger of Hot Starch.**

There is a shade in blue this season, not as green as the old "robin's egg," more beautiful and less trying than either this or the delft blue. This will wash beautifully with ordinary care in not using too strong soap, or very hot water and rinsing in cold salt and water, never allowing the article to stand in any but the salted water, and that only for a minute or two. This "heavenly blue" sometimes turns to an ugly brown, merely by the use of hot starch. This will also change a delicate rose pink to a brick shade, and heliotrope into an indescribable hue. Allow, then, the starch to become lukewarm; dry always in the shade, bring the garment in when just damp enough to iron, and one may dress oneself and children in any of the lovely new colors and revel in a good quality of cotton goods at from 10 to 12 1/2 cents a yard.

### Chartreuse of Peas.

Rub one can of peas through a strainer, add enough milk to make one pint in all. Cook together one rounding tablespoonful each of butter and flour, and mix with the sifted peas and milk. Season with salt and pepper; add sugar and onion juice if desired. Add the beaten whites of eggs, pour into buttered molds and steam or bake in a pan of water until firm in the center. Turn out of the molds before serving. Beat the egg whites slightly, and with a spoonful of milk, to prevent frothing. If a smooth texture is desired. For a soufflé effect beat them stiff and fold into the other mixture.

### To Line Butter Tubs.

C. T. Almy, in the New York Produce Review, thus tells how he lines butter tubs with parchment paper: After you have your parchment lining soaked and ready, take a roller fourteen inches long, two inches in diameter at the large end, one and one-half inches at the other, spread the paper out on a smooth board, being careful to have it smooth. Then roll it on the roller, keeping the small end to the left. Place roller in the tub and unroll to the left, following up with a paper-hanger's brush. You will be surprised how quickly and how smooth a tub can be lined.

### Berry Bread.

Beat two eggs until well mixed, add one cupful of milk. Mix together one pint of flour, one-half of a teaspoonful of salt, one tablespoonful of sugar and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Add to this the milk and eggs, two tablespoonfuls of melted butter and beat until smooth. Now add sufficient flour to make a very thick batter, turn into a greased baking pan of such size that the batter will be fully two inches deep. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and bake for three-quarters of an hour in a moderately hot oven.

### Browned Flour.

Into a shallow baking pan sift flour until about half an inch deep. Place it in a rather moderate oven and stir from time to time until the flour assumes a uniform pale coffee tint. Keep well covered in a jar; it will keep indefinitely, so that quite a supply can be prepared at one time. In using a little more is necessary than where ordinary flour is taken; thus where one rounded tablespoonful of flour is called for in the making of gravies, etc., one heaping tablespoonful of browned flour should be allowed.

### Shortcake.

Sift together one pint of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, and one-half teaspoonful of salt. Rub in one-quarter cupful of butter. Mix into a soft dough with about two-thirds of a cupful of sweet milk or water. Divide in two parts, roll each to fit the pan—put in one, brush with melted butter and place the other on top, and bake twenty minutes or more. Individual shortcakes are made by cutting like biscuits and putting together with butter between.

### Mock Oyster Stew.

Prepare one cup of salt fish by washing, shredding and simmering till soft. When ready to serve, put it in a shallow dish with one pint of oyster crackers or three butter crackers split and browned, and pour over it one pint of hot milk. Add a tablespoonful of butter and half a teaspoonful of pepper and serve.

### AFRICANS HARD TO KILL.

Only slightly hurt by injuries that would be fatal to Caucasians.

The constitutions of the peasantry in this part of Africa are marvelous, but not more marvelous than is the extraordinary immunity from serious accident that they appear to enjoy. They are the most careless, irresponsible, happy-go-lucky folk that the mind can imagine. They have absolutely no respect for the power of steam, and are wholly careless of gradations of impact. You could not persuade them in ten years that to be struck by any projecting portion of a train carrying 500 tons' weight and traveling at the rate of twenty miles an hour was in any way more formidable than being kicked by an angry cow. Both blows hurt—that is all. And nature appears to be in the conspiracy with them to maintain this condition of ignorance. Accidents befall them that with white men would entail an inquest and an appeal to the employers' liability act. And they do but rub themselves and grin. Nothing seems to hurt them seriously.

For instance, not long ago a train, heavily laden and running on the down grade at top speed—say, twenty-five to thirty miles an hour—approached to a spot where a "straightener" was standing close beside the line. Behind one of the carriages was a solid platform of wooden beams, projecting a foot or two on either side. This was the "beam" platform, so built in order that the heavy great porous water jars of the kind in which Morgiana hid the forty thieves—might catch the rush of air and the water be thus cooled. The train came on; the "straightener" remained—as though he had calculated it to a nicety—just in the right place to be struck with most force by the projecting timber. Of course, everyone shouted at him, and equally of course he paid no sort of attention, with the result that the blow took him full in the back of the head.

At the moment the train could not be stopped, but from the station about a mile farther on Lieutenant Blakeney sent back a bearer party with everything necessary for first aid, convinced in his mind, however (he had seen the occurrence), that the man must infallibly have been killed. When the bearer party returned the sergeant in charge reported that the poor victim was "a shan shawler," i. e., rather cross. There was nothing else the matter with him, and the next day, having got over his pardonable vexation, he went to work as usual.

Again on another occasion, and still on the down grade, at night a navy lost his cap overboard. It was the flimsiest apology for a cap, but it was apparently dear to him, so he jumped out after it. When the circumstance was reported at the next station an engine went back to collect him, and met him hurrying along quite comfortable and very pleased with himself; he had found it.—Wadi-Halfa letter in London News.

### Old Sayings.

As poor as a church mouse,  
As thin as a rail,  
As fat as a porpoise,  
As rough as a gale,  
As brave as a lion,  
As sly as a cat,  
As bright as a sapphire,  
As weak as a rat.

As proud as a peacock,  
As sly as a fox,  
As mad as a March hare,  
As strong as an ox,  
As fair as a lily,  
As empty as air,  
As rich as Croesus,  
As cross as a bear.

### The Baby.

"She is a little hindering thing,"  
The mother said;  
"I do not have an hour of peace,  
Till she's in bed."

"She clings unto my hand or gown,  
And follows me  
About the house from room to room,  
Talks constantly."

### Dog with False Teeth.

The greatest curiosity at the kennel show at the Crystal Palace, London, was an aged and very sleepy little Schipperke, which boasts of the proud and unique distinction of being the only dog in the world with a complete set of false teeth. His fame speedily spread among the visitors, and he was always the center of a curious crowd and the object of much admiration. At the outset he resented the attempts of strangers to open his mouth in order to inspect his artificial grinders, but eventually he yielded to the inevitable and accepted their attentions with considerable patience. The dog is owned by a dentist, who practices his profession in the city. The poor old dog's teeth were fitted up by way of an advertisement, as his master intends to open a canine dental office.

### Sponge in Florida.

A sponge with the great circumference of five feet six inches has lately been taken from the water of Biscayne Bay, Florida.

### Long in Possession.

"There is an old woman," says a London paper, "who has a milk stand in St. James' Park, who has stood at it for sixty-three years. Her mother kept it before her and her grandmother before that, the latter having been in possession for seventy-two years."

### It Breaks a Bride's Heart to Hear Her Husband Grumble.

It breaks a bride's heart to hear her husband grumble, but it is all for her own good. If men didn't grumble, their wives would never become good cooks.

### RECENT INVENTIONS.

A useful attachment for pocketbooks consists of a register by which the amount of money on hand can be indicated at a glance, a series of dials being placed inside the cover to be turned until the figures show the right numbers.

In an improved farm gate one end is made fast to a post by hinges, while the opposite end carries a wheel whose diameter is greater than the height of the gate to support the latter, making it unnecessary to lift it in opening.

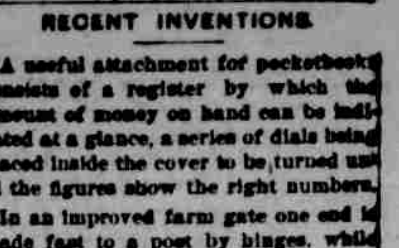
The sharpening of pencils is done away with by a New York man's idea, which consists in separating the lead into short-pointed sections, which can be slipped in at the top of the magazine holder and adjusted at the tip by means of spring jaws.

An improved picture hanger has a spring-controlled drum, which is attached to the back of the frame and adjusts the cord or wire to the proper length, one end of the cord being attached to the frame, while the other passes through the screw-eyes and over the picture nail, ending on the drum.

A handy window cleaner is designed to be attached to a section of hose to admit water through the handle into the bristles of a brush set on one side of the cleaner, the opposite side having a frictional subular drier of rubber or felt.

Steel bars are used in building a newly designed fortification, the bars being built up with interlocking ends held in place by bolts, with a number of short bars left out at intervals for port holes. A body of cast metal is attached to the inner side of the fort to surround and penetrate between the bars.

Bicycle saddles are rigidly held in place by a new clamp, which can be instantly released by touching a lever under the seat, two plano-convex wedges being formed of the saddle post and a piece of steel, the latter being mounted on the lever, with its greatest width at the bottom, so that the greater the pressure on the saddle post the tighter it grips the tubing.



### BOOK REVIEWS.

George W. Cable is delighting English audiences with his readings.

Paul Kester is at work with Mrs. Howells on a dramatization of "The Rise of Silas Lapham."

At the Ashburnham sale in London a set of the first five editions of Walton's "Compleat Angler," 1653 to 1670, brought \$4,000. This is one of the worst cases of bibliomania on record.

"Gyp" has pronounced herself in favor of the establishment of a French academy for ladies, to be conducted on the same lines as that for men. Several other literary ladies are interested in the project.

It is said that Mrs. Cragie has been selected to write the authorized life of Lord Beaconsfield. She is a great admirer of the dead statesman and he figures in her recent novel, "The School for Saints."

Miss Corelli has brought suit against the author of "Literary London" for classing her among "authors I cannot take seriously" and comparing her with Mme. Tussaud, in educational influence.

M. K. Walliszewski, author of "The Romance of an Empress" and "Peter the Great," has written a biography of Marysienka, queen of Poland, the wife of Sobieski. It covers the history of Poland during the latter half of the seventeenth century.

In honor of the seventieth birthday of Count Leo Tolstol, which falls on Aug. 28 (O. S.), the town authorities of Moscow intend establishing an elementary school which is to bear his name. Count Tolstol will celebrate at the same time the fiftieth anniversary of his literary activity.

In the Hansel Zasshi, the Japanese magazine, which is printed in English under Japanese editorship, there is an article by Professor Seichi Toyama on the "Evils of Blind Faith in Authority," that presents interesting evidence of the progress of Western learning in the Orient. The author descends on the influence of Aristotle and takes up the cudgels in the cause of Roger Bacon vs. Francis Bacon.

### A Barber's Job.

A barber at Lubec, Me., has closed his shop and posted the following notice on the door:

"To the Public: This barber shop will be closed for a brief period, as the proprietor has gone to help a few of Uncle Sam's barbers (better known as soldiers) scrape the face of the Western hemisphere clear of an obnoxious growth of whiskers, commonly called Spaniards. I shall not be gone long, as Dewey and Sampson are applying the lather, and everything points to a quick job, and a clean one. I wish to thank the public for past patronage, and on my return hope to have a share also."—New York Tribune.

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